

# News Release

(978) 465-5753; Fax: (978) 465-2807; <http://parkerriver.fws.gov>

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Parker River National Wildlife Refuge; Phone: (978) 465-5753

## *Phabulous Photo Weekend: October 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>* at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

*Phabulous Photo Weekend*, a FREE public event at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, will take place October 18<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup>. Sponsored by the refuge, the Photographic Society of Parker River NWR, and Hunt's Photo, the weekend-long event will offer a great mix of things to see and do including narrated presentations by professional nature photographers, guided photo shoots on the national wildlife refuge, opportunities to learn about the latest gear from leading photography equipment manufacturers, and a chance to view beautiful photographic prints that have been entered into the refuge's 2013 photo contest. And it's all FREE!

Here's the line-up of event offerings:

### Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

**7:00 pm: Nature's Paradise: Costa Rica;** *a narrated slide program by photographer Douglas Goodell.*

This program will highlight some of the natural wonders, diversity, beauty, and contrasts of Costa Rica. This small country is a paradise for nature lovers and biologists, and for photographers. I will illustrate how the mountains and volcanoes separating the coastal areas lead to microclimates ranging from very wet to very dry, and from tropical to sub-alpine, and some of the flora and fauna characteristic of each. The program is not a recitation of species, but is a narrative of some of the findings and experiences encountered in the preparation of the related, photo-based book.

### Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

**6:30 am: Sunrise Photo Shoot:** Meet up near the entrance to the boardwalk at Parking Lot 1. Tripods recommended but not required. No preregistration required.

**9:30 – 11:00 am: Photographing Wildlife – From Portraits to Action;** *a presentation by photographer Roman Kurywczak:* This exciting educational program will cover everything you will need to know about photographing wildlife in the field. The photographic journey will cover exotic locations such as Tanzania but also include many tips for photographing wildlife closer to home in some unexpected places. Minimum gear requirements will be discussed for both the safety of the wildlife and the photographer. Camera settings will be covered including what mode to use as well as choosing the right ISO for wildlife portrait work as well as action photography. There will be plenty of image examples showing how those settings will provide impact to your images. The program concludes with an in depth segment on photographing birds in flight.

**11:30 am – 12:30 pm: See Yourself in Print – Self Publishing Your Own Photo Book;** *a presentation by photographer Douglas Goodell.* A coffee table photo book provides a great way to present your images – whether it's a travel book, wedding album, family or baby record, or a portfolio. In recent years the popularity and accessibility of this type of publication has mushroomed. There are now so many options for vendors, software, and book constructions that the choices can be confusing. This program examines the choices and important parameters to consider, and shows the results you can expect. And, the results will make you want to see yourself in print!

**2:00 – 2:45 pm: What's New at Nikon?:** *Join Bob Watts, of Nikon USA,* for an “up close and personal” look at Nikon’s “latest and greatest” camera and lens gear. Nikon’s camera and lens lineup has become quite large – and with new technologies and designs, many new images will be able to be created. Bob will have a full range of gear to show and talk about during this session.

**3:00 – 4:00 pm: International Wildlife Photography – Focus on the Ibex;** *Join photographer Benjamin Grunow* for a narrated slide show and talk about the alpine ibex, a species of wild mountain goats that live in the mountains of the European Alps. In 1976 the species numbered 104 individual animals. Conservation efforts have since brought that number back up to 20,000+. This will be a presentation about their habits and habitats, and what it takes to capture these animals in action.

**4:00 – 6:00 pm: Field Workshop: Photographing Birds;** *Join photographer Roman Kurywczak* in the field for a hands-on workshop about how to photograph birds in the wild. **By preregistration only; limited to 30 participants.**

**7:00 – 8:30 pm: Photographing the Nighttime Landscape;** *Join photographer Roman Kurywczak* for an educational how-to program designed to open up your eyes to the possibility of photographing landscapes with the star filled sky as a backdrop. Equipment, tips, techniques, and camera setting for both star points and star trails will be covered. We will also explore “light painting” of a foreground subject as well as overcoming obstacles when the conditions are less than ideal.

**9:00 – 10:00 pm: Field Workshop: Astrophotography 101;** *Join photographer Benjamin Grunow* for a field introduction to shooting stars at night. Participants will need a DSLR (with a manual mode setting; capable of ISO 800 and a 30 second exposure minimum), lens with an aperture setting of f4 or better, and a tripod. **By preregistration only; limited to 30 participants.**

Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

**6:30 am: Sunrise Photo Shoot;** Meet up near the entrance to the boardwalk at Parking Lot 1. Tripods recommended but not required. No preregistration required.

**7:00 – 9:00 am: Field Workshop: Photographing Birds;** *Join photographer Roman Kurywczak* in the field for a hands-on workshop about how to photograph birds in the wild. **By preregistration only; limited to 30 participants.**

**10:00 am – 11:00 am: Botanical Macro Photography: Telling the Story with Creative, Intentional Elements;** *a presentation by photographer Cynthia Perdigao.* I capture the “tiny story” or artistic essence of flowers or other macro subjects. These small scenes resonate in large ways with the viewer. The goal of this “intentional photography” is not just to capture a nicely exposed flower or macro scene, but to really allow the emotion in the image make the viewer stop and look.

**12:30 – 1:30 pm: Panoramic Landscape Photography;** *a presentation by photographer Kathy Tarantola.* Kathy will show samples of her panoramic landscape photographs and discuss composition, equipment, exposure and helpful tips for both film based panoramic cameras and for digital stitching of images.

**3:00 pm: Winners of the 2013 Photo Contest are announced!**

Most of the *Phabulous Photo Weekend* activities will take place at the refuge visitor center, located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike in Newburyport. Because of anticipated high demand for the three on-refuge photo workshops, preregistration is required. Those wishing to sign-up for the on-refuge workshops may do so by contacting the refuge beginning Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> thru Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> (inclusive). The refuge phone number is (978) 465-5753. Participants will then be determined by lottery.

The entire *Phabulous Photo Weekend* schedule can be downloaded from the refuge web site: [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker\\_river/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/). The annual event is held in celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week.

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